



News Release

USDA Forest Service

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands

2113 Osuna Rd. NE ■ Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001



For Immediate Release

Mt. Taylor Ranger District to begin Stage II Fire Restrictions June 10

Albuquerque, NM. June 4, 2013. The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands' Mt. Taylor Ranger District will begin Stage II fire restrictions effective 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 10, 2013. "The Mt. Taylor Ranger District continues to experience extreme drought conditions that the National Weather Service does not anticipate improving in the near future," said Acting Forest Supervisor Joe Norrell. "Because of this prediction, I felt it was necessary to move into Stage II fire restrictions to decrease the likelihood of human-caused wildfires and to protect public health and safety," he added.

"Although the district will be in fire restrictions, there are many activities that can still be enjoyed on the forest, such as mountain biking, picnicking, hiking and camping," said District Ranger Matt Reidy. "However, please use extreme caution when you're on the forest, as conditions are very dry and wildfires can start from smoldering cigarettes or sparks from engines," he added.

Stage II fire restrictions include:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove, anywhere on the district. **Exceptions:** The use of petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns, propane grills, or heating devices is allowed, provided such devices meet the fire underwriter's specification for safety and has a turn-off valve.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building, at a developed recreation site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.
3. Possessing, discharging or using any kind of firework or other pyrotechnic device.
4. Discharging a firearm, air rifle or gas gun.
5. Operating a chainsaw, or other equipment powered by an internal combustion engine from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
6. Operating or using any internal or external combustion engine without a spark arresting device that is properly installed, maintained and in effective working order. They must meet either USDA Forest Service or appropriate Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) recommended practice
7. Welding or operating acetylene or other torch with an open flame.

8. Possessing or using a motor vehicle off National Forest System roads, except when parking in an area devoid of vegetation within 10 feet of the roadway or overnight parking in Forest Service-developed campgrounds and trailheads.

There are some exemptions to these restrictions and are noted on the restrictions order that is posted on the Cibola's web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola> in the "Alerts and Notices" section.

The Mt. Taylor Ranger District works closely to coordinate fire restrictions with the cities, counties, state, tribal and federal organizations that border the district. This collaboration helps ensure the public receives consistent information about fire restrictions in their communities.

Current fire restrictions for the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands are:

- **Black Kettle and McClellan Creek National Grasslands:** No restrictions.
- **Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:** Will begin Stage I fire restrictions on June 16.
- **Magdalena Ranger District:** Will begin Stage I fire restrictions for the San Mateo, Datil and Magdalena Mountain units on June 3 . The Bear and Gallinas units will not be in restrictions.
- **Mountainair Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions; going into Stage III restrictions on June 10.
- **Mt. Taylor Ranger District:** In Stage I Fire Restrictions; going into Stage II restrictions on June 10. The district's personal woodcutting permit season is delayed.
- **Sandia Ranger District:** In Stage II Fire Restrictions; going into Stage III restrictions on June 10.

For more information, contact:

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Useful fire websites:

- Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
- New Mexico Fire Information: <http://nmfireinfo.com/>
- National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
- FireWise: www.firewise.org
- Fire Restrictions across the US: <http://firerestrictions.us/>